



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

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MEDIA ADVISORY

NATURAL GAS PRICES, STORAGE LEVELS AND CUSTOMER IMPACTS WILL BE THE FOCUS OF PSC PRESENTATION AT GOVERNOR ENERGY POLICY COUNCIL MEETING TODAY

Jefferson City (July 23, 2003)---Current natural gas prices, storage levels and the possibility of higher natural gas prices this winter will be the focus of remarks to be given today by Warren Wood, Energy Department Manager of the Missouri Public Service Commission.

Wood will be among a number of speakers at the Governor's Missouri Energy Policy Council meeting in Jefferson City (Roaring River Room at the East Elm Conference Center, 1738 East Elm Street). The meeting is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m.

"We have seen improvements in natural gas storage levels and while that is certainly a positive sign, storage levels still remain below the five year average," stated Warren Wood. "Since March of this year, the Public Service Commission has warned citizens of the real possibility that they would see higher natural gas prices this winter versus last. We still have many of the concerns that caused us to issue this original advisory," stated Wood.

"What natural gas prices will be this winter is still very hard to predict and weather certainly is one of the major factors that will drive the price," added Wood. "We are hopeful that the beginning of winter is mild. Consumers need to be aware that current natural gas prices are among the highest they have ever been for this time of the year. That will certainly factor into what a consumer ultimately pays for natural gas this winter."

PSC Chairman Kelvin Simmons is a member of the Governor's Missouri Energy Policy Council.